



African Americans' Role in the Northern Arizona Timber Industry

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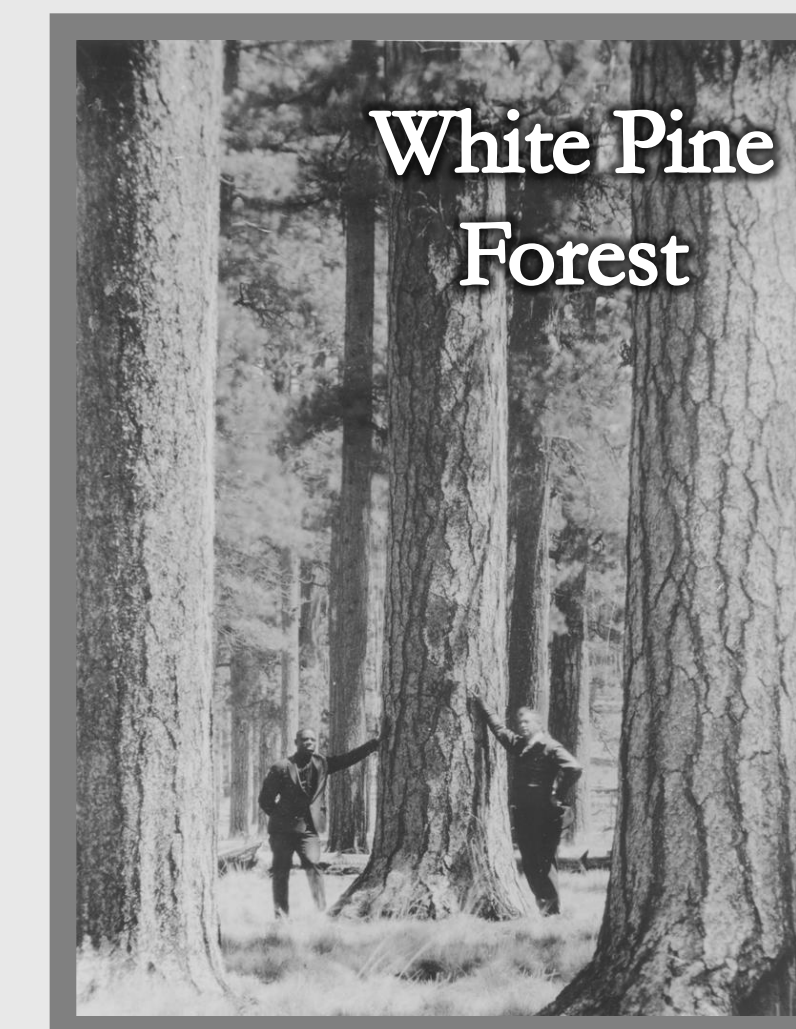


Logging Railroad

As the logging industry emerged in Northern Arizona in the early 1880s, entrepreneurs from large operations, like the Ayer Lumber Company in Flagstaff, employed African American laborers from southern states. Until the 1920s, relatively few African American lumbermen ventured to Northern Arizona for available work.



Average Load

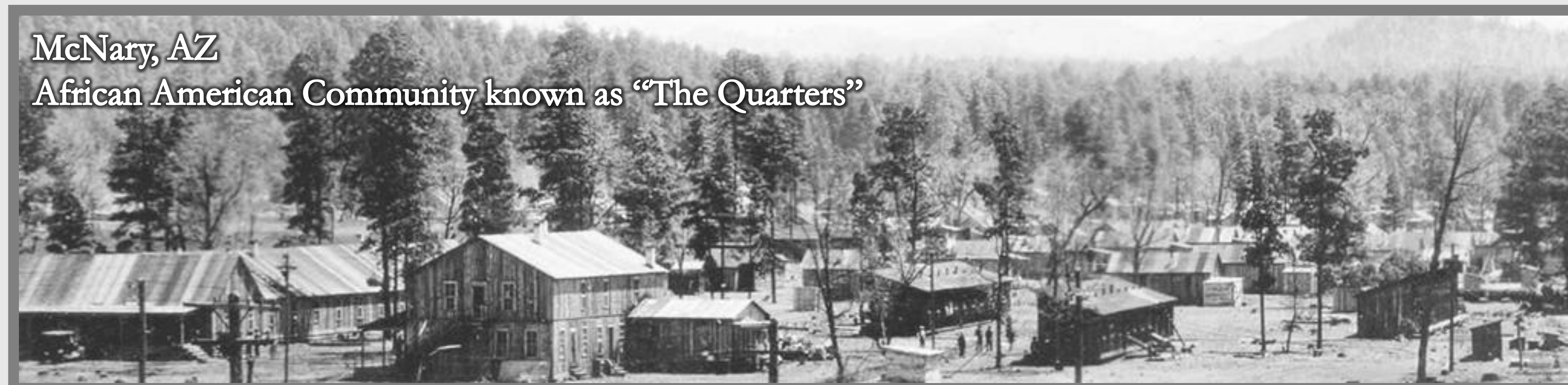


White Pine Forest

In 1924, William M. Cady transferred five hundred African American employees and their families, from the yellow pine forests of Louisiana, to his newly acquired logging operation in Northern Arizona. This was a remarkable event for the time. Lumbermen worked for the Cady Lumber Company logging in the White Mountains. The town (McNary) had separate living quarters for the Navajos, Hispanics, Caucasians, and African Americans.

McNary, AZ

African American Community known as "The Quarters"



Lumberjack

The majority of relocated workers returned to the south due to the cold temperatures of Northern Arizona. Those who stayed continued working for the Cady Lumber Company. As the economy fluctuated workers transferred to various lumber operations in Flagstaff and Williams.



Mechanical Peavey Operator

In the early years, laborers lived in large logging camps and worked in timber stands cutting, limbing, and bucking trees. The logs were then loaded onto big wagons and taken to a sawmill for further processing. African American men mainly did field work until later years when they also functioned as teamsters, machine operators and engineers.